

Interpreters and Translators

SOC: 27-3091 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$59,440

Median Salary

75,300

Employment

+2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.6/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Business skills, Communication skills, Concentration, Cultural sensitivity, Dexterity, Interpersonal skills, Listening skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Interpreters and Translators convert **spoken or written communication from one language to another to facilitate understanding between people or organizations**. They work with documents, live conversations, or media, ensuring accuracy and cultural appropriateness. Their work is critical in education, healthcare, legal, business, and international relations.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy languages, communication, and bridging cultural or linguistic gaps.

What Do Interpreters and Translators Do?

These professionals render messages accurately between languages, maintaining meaning, tone, and context.

Common responsibilities include:

- Translating written materials, documents, and media
- Interpreting spoken conversations in real-time or remotely
- Ensuring accuracy and cultural sensitivity in communication
- Reviewing and editing translations for correctness
- Consulting with clients or subject-matter experts for technical terminology
- Maintaining confidentiality and ethical standards
- Staying current with language developments and terminology

Key Areas of Interpretation and Translation

Interpreters and translators may focus on specific languages, industries, or types of communication:

- Simultaneous Interpretation: Providing real-time translation during conferences or meetings
- Consecutive Interpretation: Translating speech in segments during conversations or presentations
- Document Translation: Translating written materials, manuals, and media
- Technical or Specialized Translation: Handling legal, medical, or technical content
- Cultural and Contextual Accuracy: Ensuring meaning and nuance are preserved across languages

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine language proficiency, analytical thinking, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education, language proficiency, and specialized training:

- Bachelor's Degree (common): Languages, translation, interpretation, or related field
- Specialized Training or Certification: Professional credentials for interpretation or translation in certain industries
- Practical Experience: Internships, volunteer work, or freelance projects in translation and interpretation
- Continuing Education: Maintaining proficiency and learning new terminology, languages, or industry practices
- Advanced Opportunities: Specialization in legal, medical, or technical translation and interpretation

Where Do Interpreters and Translators Work?

They are employed in organizations that require multilingual communication:

- Government and International Agencies
- Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities
- Legal Firms and Courts
- Corporations and Businesses

- Educational and Research Institutions

Work environments include offices, courts, hospitals, conferences, remote locations, and online platforms.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires fluency in multiple languages, cultural knowledge, and the ability to convey meaning accurately under time constraints. Interpreters and translators must maintain attention to detail and handle complex or sensitive materials.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with languages and cross-cultural communication
- Are detail-oriented and accurate
- Can handle complex, technical, or sensitive content
- Have strong research and analytical skills
- Want a career bridging communication gaps and supporting understanding across languages

How to Prepare Early

- Study multiple languages and practice proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing
- Take courses in translation, interpretation, or linguistics
- Volunteer or intern in translation or interpretation settings
- Develop cultural awareness and industry-specific terminology
- Explore certifications or professional programs in interpretation and translation

Interpreters and translators facilitate understanding across languages and cultures, ensuring accurate communication and bridging gaps in education, healthcare, legal, and business settings.

Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm>